

import relief by imposing five year quotas on the importation of steel and iron ore products in the U.S. The quotas will return the import market share to the levels prior to 1997. This provision is very similar to H.R. 975, which passed the House with strong support in the previous Congress.

In addition, this legislation will augment the Steel Loan Guarantee Program, which provided guaranteed loans to qualified steel companies. Currently, steel companies are finding it almost impossible to raise capital through other sources, especially due to plummeting stock prices and decreasing demand. The Steel Revitalization Act will expand the program by authorizing \$10 billion rather than \$1 billion, guaranteeing 95 percent of the loan rather than 80 percent and extending the terms from five years to fifteen. With this expansion, more companies will be able to take advantage of this worthwhile program.

Mr. Speaker, in the Congressional District I represent, two of our steel companies are seriously distressed. Many of my constituents are at risk of losing their jobs. It is of the utmost importance that we in Congress work hard to keep America's steel industry vital. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 808.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 333) to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 333, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act. I have spent a great deal of time examining the public debate surrounding bankruptcy reform and looking for assurances that H.R. 333 will reduce the number of abusive bankruptcy filings by holding debtors responsible for repaying their debts.

Although bankruptcy filings continued to decrease this past year from the record 1.4 million consumer bankruptcy petitions filed in 1998, they still remain six percent higher than five years ago, when filings first passed the one million mark. Last year, the number of personal bankruptcy filings in Rhode Island decreased by 12 percent from the previous year, but that number is still too high, as the number of personal filings in the state has more than doubled in the last decade. Unfortunately, hardworking consumers shoulder much of the economic burden of these bankruptcies.

While there are many factors contributing to the increased number of bankruptcy filings, statistics have shown that a significant number of individuals are permitted to walk away from their debt by filing under Chapter 7 when they have the ability to repay most, if not all, of their debt. Our bankruptcy system should direct filers to the chapter that best matches their needs and allow them to pay off as much debt as possible.

H.R. 333 will help reestablish a degree of personal responsibility by utilizing a needs-

based test to identify debtors making over the median income who have an ability to repay at least a portion of their debts. However, this legislation is by no means perfect and it fails to hold credit card companies accountable for the credit they issue. An increasing number of individuals who have experienced events such as illness, job loss or a recent divorce and have no financial recourse other than bankruptcy are being overwhelmed with misleading and abusive marketing strategies of the credit industry. As a result, too many consumers are prone to predatory lending practices after filing for bankruptcy and are never truly granted a fresh start by the system.

It is for these reasons that I will support the amendment offered by my colleague from Texas, Ms. Jackson-Lee, and the motion to recommit offered by the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Conyers, during consideration of the bill. These provisions would strengthen the bill and address credit card company practices that have contributed to the increasing level of consumer debt and the rise in consumer bankruptcies. Specifically, the Jackson-Lee amendment seeks to modify the means test to allow more flexibility in determining a debtor's expenses, including health insurance premiums, other medical expenses, and the costs relating to the care of foster children, and extend the deadline for filing and confirmation of reorganization plans by small businesses. The motion to recommit would prohibit credit card companies from issuing credit to individuals under the age of 21 unless there is written parental consent or the individual can demonstrate an independent source to pay the debt.

Nonetheless, even if these modifications are not approved, I do intend to support the underlying bill because I believe Congress must do something to address the current state of abuse and overuse of our bankruptcy system. However, Congress should also continue to pursue common-sense reforms that will not only cut down on fraud within the system but also hold credit issuers accountable for their actions while protecting the vulnerable consumer. I would strongly urge the Senate to keep these arguments in mind as it continues to debate its version of the bankruptcy reform bill.

A TRIBUTE TO MILDRED L. BOYCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mildred L. Boyce for her contribution to the education of New York's children. For over 25 years Ms. Boyce has been a dedicated teacher and administrator.

Although Ms. Boyce was born in Manhattan she received all of her education in Brooklyn, attending P.S. 44, P.S. 181, J.H.S. 246, Erasmus Hall High School and Brooklyn College, where she received a B.A. degree, M.S. degree and a professional Diploma in Administration and Supervision.

Ms. Boyce began her career in education as a 6th grade teacher at P.S. 106, in 1965, where she later held the position of Master Teacher and Interim Acting Assistant Principal, before coming to Philippa Schuyler in 1977.

Currently, Ms. Boyce serves as the Principal of the Philippa Schuyler Middle School for the Gifted and Talented.

For her devotion, and hard work Ms. Boyce has been the recipient of many awards including the NAACP Educator's Award and the Black Professional Business Women's Educator Award.

In addition to her duties as an educator, Ms. Boyce is an active member of St. Laurence Catholic Church, serving as a Lector, and a member of the Baptismal team. She is also a member and advisor to the President of the Council for Supervisors and Administrators as well as an elected delegate from District 32. She sits on the executive board of District 32's supervisors.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Mildred L. Boyce for her hard work and extraordinary contributions in the field of education.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT MAY

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated work of one of my constituents, Mr. Robert May of Old Town, Florida who has been awarded the Charles P. Ulmer award by the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The Ulmer award recognizes individuals who have worked to honor the memory of those who died serving their country. Robert May has done that and more. He currently serves as a leader within the organization and is actively involved in his community. I commend Robert May for his dedication and commitment to preserving the rich heritage of the South.

The Charles P. Ulmer Award was named for a man who bravely fought in many famous battles during the Civil War, including the battles of Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Perryville, and Murfreesboro. As it's told, on November 25, 1863, during the battle of Missionary Ridge, Corporal Charles P. Ulmer put honor before fear when he picked up the flag from a fallen soldier and charged forward. He served his country proudly as he, too, fell answering the call of duty.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans' "Charles Ulmer Compatriot of the Year Award" is awarded to that person who exemplifies the dedication and duty to country that Mr. Ulmer had shown so long ago, and Robert May is that person.

Mr. Speaker, I join Robert May's family and friends in congratulating him on receiving the "Charles Ulmer Compatriot of the Year Award."

THE CLEAN DIAMONDS ACT

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Clean Diamonds Act. This bill aims to eliminate the trade in diamonds that